

Atty's D ck t: Déiersd rf 540.1-wcg

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Please charge any further insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-13 stand rejected for allegedly being obvious over WO '649 to Morgan et al., by itself, or in view of US '645 to Sandvig.

Response to Examiner's Arguments

Examiner believes that "WO '649 teaches clearly 2 foam layers and felt black layer." Office Action, page 5, last paragraph. This arrangement is allegedly disclosed in dependent claims 2 to 4 on page 9, lines 10-17 of the reference. In addition, Examiner alleges that "felt is not solid and it can be foam." In this way, Examiner reads WO '649 as having three foamed layers. It is respectfully suggested, and demonstrated below, that Examiner's interpretation is not correct.

The eye patch in WO '649 has an inner member (14 in Fig. 3) that may be made of felt (e.g., claim 2) and an outer member (12 in Fig. 3). The outer member is disclosed as having more than one component layers – innermost adhesive, intermediate, and outermost polymeric film. See page 5, lines 9-13.

Claim 3 recites that the outer member has an outer layer of polymeric foam. Therefore, the backing in claim 3 may have a single foam layer.

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Claim 4 recites that the backing comprises an intermediate foam layer. Therefore, claim 4 merely reiterates a single foam layer and requires that it be between the adhesive and an outer layer. This is still the only and singular foam layer described.

This interpretation is clearly supported by the description on page 5, lines 9-13 of WO '649. The backing member is described as comprising a single foam layer. That claim 4 further specifies a more centralized position within the backing member does not in any way suggest that the recited foam layer is an additional foam layer.

Persons of ordinary skill would clearly understand from (a) Figure 3, (b) page 5, lines 9-13, and (c) claims 3 and 4, that the backing member has a single foam layer. It is respectfully suggested that Examiner was incorrect in stating that the "WO '649 teaches clearly 2 foam layers and felt black layer." Office Action, page 5, last paragraph. Therefore, this interpretation does not provide a proper basis to maintain the rejection.

In addition, the Examiner interprets the felt inner member as analogous to Applicants' third foam layer. Examiner states, without any support or technical reasoning, that "felt is not solid and it can be foam." This is completely incorrect.

As used and understood in the art, felt is a nonwoven fabric, not a foam. This is supported by the attached pages that include the following:

- a page from the CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POLYMER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING showing that felt is categorized as a nonwoven fabric.
- pages downloaded from various felt industry-related websites, wherein the nature of felt is described only in fabric-related terminology.

None of these pages describe or suggest that felt is anything other than a fabric, and certainly not a foam as Examiner states. Examiner has not presented any evidence to support this conclusion.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and submitted exhibits, it is apparent that Examiner has inaccurately interpreted the WO '649 reference as teaching or suggesting an eyepatch having three foam layers, when in reality, it has only one.

Further, US '645 to Sandvig cannot cure these deficiencies. This reference, like WO '649, also teaches only a single, centrally located polyurethane foam layer. See Abstract, Figures 3 and 4. Thus, combining the two disclosures does not teach or suggest the claimed plaster.

In conclusion, the combined references do not teach or suggest each claim limitation, i.e., three distinct layers having a foamed material.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Respectfully Submitted,

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WHAT IS FELT

Technical felt is differentiated into felt from animal hairs and needlefelt of synthetic fibre so called non-woven felt and woven felt made from sheep wool - the classical felt. The production of felt takes place in several steps, which are described here very briefly. After cleaning wool is stuffed, i.e. the woolly hairs are aligned in a direction, so that thin rolls were manufactured.

Felting is a process of steam, pressure and circular or shaking movements., i.e. the wool fibres chain together and incur themselves to a diffuse connection. Now you can call it felt. A milling process (a mechanical manufacturing process in the form of pressing and tossing in different directions) follows. With help of hot water and pressure, as well as possible milling adds (e. g. soap), different thicknesses and firmnesses of felt can be manufactured.

After this milling process the felt is washed and dried, whereby felt is cleaned by production residues. Afterwards felt can be coloured or equipped in different ways, e. g. water-rejecting impregnated, with difficulty inflammable or decay resistant, self-adhesive. In order to achieve also a high surface quality, felt is surface processed afterwards.



:: What is Felt Anyway ::

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:: What is Felt Anyway ::

Felt is a mass of wool and/or fur. It is not woven, but rather pressed and manipulated in a centuries-old process using hot water and steam to create the strongest, smoothest, lightest, most water-resistant natural



fabric known. Each manufacturer of felt closely guards his exact felt making process and formula. According to legend, St. Clement (the patron saint of felt hatmakers) discovered felt when, as a wandering monk, he filled his sandals with flax fibers to protect his feet. The moisture and pressure from pounding feet compressed the fibers into a crude, though comfortable felt. Similar legends suggest that Native Americans or ancient Egyptians "discovered" felt by way of fur lined moccasins or camel hair falling into sandals. To the hat industry, whoever was first is not as important as the fact that felt hats function well. They are durable, comfortable, and attractive. Enjoy your felt hat!

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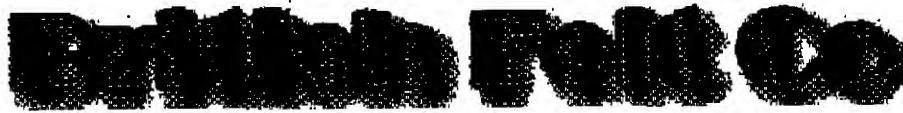
Feltmaking

The most important fact about felt is that it has to be made from sheep fleece, or wool fibre. Unlike a woven or knitted textile, felt is made from the unspun wool fibres and is therefore known as a fabric rather than a textile. Wool is the only fibre, which will felt. If you look at a fibre of wool under a microscope you can see the overlapping scales with serrated edges which go down the fibre ending in a point. A human hair is quite similar but the scales are smoother and will not felt. Wool does not felt on its own or otherwise sheep would be walking about in felt jackets! To create felt you need the following conditions: heat, moisture, friction and pressure. When the wool fibres are exposed to these conditions, the scales of the fibres open up and tangle. The longer the fibres are exposed to heat, moisture, friction and pressure, the stronger the felt will be.

Feltmaking has a long history. The earliest archaeological evidence suggests that people were making felt in Central Asia during the Neolithic Period. The most wonderful examples were discovered in burial chambers in the Altai Mountains in Siberia. Dating from 600BC and miraculously preserved by the permafrost; there are examples of rugs, wall hangings and other objects that show that feltmaking skills were already highly sophisticated. In some areas of the world feltmaking is still part of a thriving traditional culture and still in areas near the Altai Mountains nomadic people live in Gers, the name for the felted tents. When people travelled as a way of life, looking after their flocks, they used felt for tent coverings, floor rugs, wall hangings and all sorts of bags as well as their tough outer clothing. They always had their source for their felt walking with them, their sheep. Many traditions of patterns and colours have developed with the different groups. Some of the recurring shapes and motifs found in traditional designs are sunwheels, reindeer, clouds, waves, butterflies, lions and mythical beasts such as the griffin. Felt is still very important today. Policemen in Russia wear felt-lined boots in winter, in Eastern Turkey, kepeneks (shepherds' cloaks) are still made and worn in the traditional way. Amongst all this tradition, modern conveniences and modern clothing are mixed in a curious way. Young people sleep in a ger but wear Western baseball hats, as any teenager in a more modern culture would do.

Felt is produced industrially too and the tough felt made by factories can be found in numners, a felt pad to be put under a saddle, or in tennis balls, piano hammers, billiard table cloths and in thousands of felt-tip pens. PLEASE ANSWER IN FULL SENTENCES. PRESENT YOUR WORK AS ATTRACTIVELY AS YOU CAN. YOU COULD INTRODUCE BORDERS BASED ON FELT DESIGNS.

1. Make a careful drawing of a wool fibre enlarged, a felt tent and a kepenek or the motifs used in traditional feltmaking design, a sunwheel, a reindeer, a butterfly, a lion and a griffin.
2. What is felt made from?



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Information About Pressed Wool Felt

■ *What is Pressed Felt ?*

Pressed wool felt is a non-woven engineering fabric manufactured either solely from wool or from a wool and blended fibre mixture. Manufactured by means of compression, heat and moisture it's construction depends upon the unique properties of the wool fibre. Wool fibres are unlike any other natural hair products in that their surface structure is comprised of raised scales, which naturally interlock with each other when compressed together. This interlocking of fibres results in structure that can be further enhanced with milling and hardening (this is the felting stage). The more the wool is felted, the firmer (denser) it becomes. The materials final hardness is in direct proportion to the amount of felting it has received. Once the specific grade of felt has been manufactured, the fabric is now dried under tension to stabilise it's manufactured thickness and width.

■ *What is Technical Felt ?*

Technical felt is pressed felt that has been manufactured to a specific recipe, in order that it can carry out particular engineering or technical functions in its end use. Thickness range Standard wool felts range from 1.5mm thick through to 25mm thick and in the lower hardness grades are generally manufactured in continuous rolls. Extra hard felts range from 3mm through to 100mm in thickness and at this hardness are generally manufactured as flat sheets.

■ *Technical Felt Colour Range.*

The majority of technical pressed felts are manufactured using natural colour wool's. This results in an off-white/cream appearance. Grey wool's are also used and can vary from steel grey in colour through to grey/brown depending upon the wool blend available at the time of